

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for restricting travel of a moving contact in a lighting contactor, the lighting contactor including the moving contact and a contact carrier, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a hollow spacer;

providing a biasing member;

positioning the biasing member within the spacer such that the spacer extends only around the biasing member, the spacer configured to move along a length of the biasing member when the biasing member is stationary; and

installing the biasing member and the spacer in the contact carrier.

C | 2. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a spacer further comprises the step of:

determining a compressed biasing member length; and

providing the spacer having a length substantial equal to said compressed biasing member length.

3. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the contact carrier defines an access slot, said step of providing a spacer further comprises the step of:

determining a moving contact safe travel distance; and

providing the spacer sized to be received in the access slot, the spacer engaging the moving contact when the moving contact moves the safe travel distance.

4. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of installing the biasing member further comprises the step of engaging the biasing member to the moving contact.

5. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of installing the biasing member further comprises the step of mounting the biasing member with the contact carrier.

6. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of installing the biasing member further comprises the step of aligning a substantially planar proximate end of the spacer substantially parallel to a back of the moving contact.

7. (original) A method according to Claim 6 wherein said step of aligning the spacer further comprises the step of aligning the spacer to engage the moving contact back upon rearward axial movement of the moving contact relative to a front wall and a rear wall of the contact carrier and a centerline axis of the lighting contactor.

8.-31. (cancelled)

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32. (new) A method for limiting movement of a moving contact along a longitudinal axis of an access slot in a lighting contactor, said method comprising:

providing a spacer with at least one longitudinal opening; and

inserting a biasing member through the at least one longitudinal opening of the spacer such that the spacer is movable along a length of the biasing member when the biasing member is stationary.

33. (new) The method according to Claim 8 further comprising positioning the spacer and the biasing member within the access slot of the lighting contactor.

34. (new) The method according to Claim 8 further comprising:

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calculating a moving contact safe travel distance; and

providing the spacer having a length substantially equal to the moving contact safe travel distance.

35. (new) The method according to Claim 8 wherein providing a spacer with at least one longitudinal opening further comprises providing a tubular spacer with at least one longitudinal opening.